Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 1, beginning on line 15 of the specification as follows:

An inherent problem in equalizer banks is the fact that the response characteristic of the individual equalizers within the equalizer bank mutually interferes, creating at least two highly undesirable disadvantages for conventional equalizer banks. First, depending on the setting at certain frequencies and frequency ranges, pronounced gain peaks or attenuation peaks may arise. A second problem is that more or less pronounced distortion of the response characteristic may occur.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 1, beginning on line 24 and continuing on page 2 of the specification as follows:

An equalizer receives an input signal and provides an equalizer output signal that includes a first equalizer bank and a second equalizer bank. The first equalizer bank includes a first equalizer section that receives the input signal. The first equalizer section has a gain and provides a first equalizer output signal to a second equalizer section having a center frequency. The second equalizer section provides a second equalizer output signal to a third equalizer section that has a gain and provides a third equalizer output signal. The second equalizer bank includes a first correcting equalizer section that receives a signal indicative of the third equalizer output signal and provides a first correcting equalizer output signal to a second correcting equalizer section. The second correcting equalizer section provides a second correcting equalizer output signal to a third correcting equalizer section, which provides the equalizer output signal. The second correcting equalizer section includes a gain value that is indicative of the negative sum of the gains associated with the first and third equalizer sections of the first bank at the center frequency of the second equalizer section of the first bank.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 17 and continuing on page 4 of the specification as follows:

The gain of each second equalizer section is preferably composed of the negative gains from the first equalizer section preceding the corresponding first equalizer section and from the first equalizer section following the corresponding first equalizer section at the center frequency of the corresponding first equalizer section. In addition, the gain of each second (i.e., correction) equalizer section may also contain the negative gains of additional adjacent first equalizer sections at the center frequency of the corresponding first equalizer section.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 4, beginning on line 3 of the specification as follows:

The arrangement of the equalizers may be such that either the first equalizer sections are each connected immediately adjacent in series or~~and~~ the second equalizer sections are each connected immediately in series. In an alternative embodiment, first and second equalizer sections may be connected immediately adjacent in series.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 7, beginning on line 1 of the specification as follows:

At the center frequency f_3 of the first equalizer section 3, for example, first equalizer bank sections 1 and 2 also act before the first equalizer bank section 3, while the first equalizer bank sections 4 and 5 do so after the first equalizer bank section 3. The effect of the first equalizer bank section 6 that is three places removed from the first equalizer bank section 3 is negligible here. Corresponding to the first equalizer bank section 3 is the correcting second equalizer bank section 9, which serves to compensate for the effect of the first equalizer bank sections 1, 2, 4 and 5. The amount of attenuation of the correcting second equalizer bank section 9 is equal to the amount of gain at the common center frequency f_3 produced in common by the first equalizer bank sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 at the center frequency f_3. The compensation at the remaining center frequencies f_2, f_4, f_5 and f_6 is effected analogously.